

**Opening Statement of Warren Stephens
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom
Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the Ambassador to the Court of St. James's. I am truly grateful to President Trump for placing his confidence in me to fulfill the important duties and responsibilities of this position.

I commend President Trump's plan in taking decisive and purposeful action as he wastes no time in implementing his agenda. This will require all of us to not only work hard, but thoughtfully, as well.

If confirmed, I promise to advance the America First agenda throughout the United Kingdom and to build upon the special relationship that is so critical to our country. I want to thank my good friends, Senator Boozman and Senator Cotton, for the kind introductions. My home state of Arkansas is fortunate to have them represent us in the U.S. Senate because their subject-matter expertise and their personalities are formidable complements.

As my senators referenced in their introductions, I count my family as my greatest achievement in life. I want to thank my family for their steadfast support and love throughout this process. I'd like to introduce them to the Committee.

My wife, Harriet, and I have been married for 43 years throughout which she has given me her unwavering support. She is the backbone of our family. I love her dearly and grateful that she is with me today and every day.

Harriet and I have three adult children - Miles, John, and Laura. All three of our children are married to wonderful people that Harriet and I consider to be our own – Katie, Mary Olive, and Cliff. Our children have blessed us with six grandchildren – Harvey, Rollins, Lillian, Parker, Caroline, and Warren.

I am delighted that our son, John, our daughter, Laura, and her husband, Cliff Brookshire are also here with me today.

My father, Jack, and my uncle, Witt, instilled in me the value of hard work. These two brothers grew up on a farm in Prattsville, Arkansas, and eventually established an investment banking company during the Great Depression, buying bonds in default at ten cents on the dollar. My dad and Uncle Witt instilled in all with whom

they worked the effort required to achieve success.

When I was twenty-nine, my father named me the CEO of Stephens Inc. For nearly 40 years, I worked to grow the family business into a world renowned financial institution. It gives me great pride that our children are now managing the firm. I am confident that they will continue to grow the business while maintaining the important principal of focusing on relationships, and not just transactions.

That same commitment to building and maintaining relationships has been a cornerstone of my career and will be my guiding principle if I am confirmed to serve as the Ambassador to the UK.

The United Kingdom is one of our closest allies. Our special relationship is built on shared interests and values, mutual respect, and a commitment to global security and prosperity. Our collaboration spans every area from defense, to trade, to cultural exchanges.

The UK is a strong partner in tackling the toughest challenges throughout the world as the UK is a top contributor to NATO. If confirmed, I will encourage the UK to continue to lead on advancing plans for viable, long-term peace in Ukraine, which should be structured and paid for by Europe.

With regard to our friends in Northern Ireland, I will work closely with the UK government and all stakeholders as we abide by our promise to ensure Northern Ireland remains peaceful and stable to build upon the Good Friday Agreement.

Our partnership is clearly demonstrated by our deep economic relationship. The UK is a major bilateral economic partner with the United States, however, it is critical that the American people receive the full benefit of this partnership. As Ambassador, I will work to make this relationship fairer, our ties even stronger, and ensure that Americans continue to be the people the UK depends upon as trusted business partners.

For decades, I have been a proponent for a trade agreement with the United Kingdom. And, post-Brexit, it is even more crucial that we arrive at a trade agreement. Any such agreement should include public and private methods of raising capital. Our depth of capital markets and legal frameworks are very real assets and a great advantage our countries have over the rest of the world. We should take advantage of it.

Our partnership with the UK is ripe with opportunities to make Americans safer and more prosperous, and I'm eager to strengthen those connections.

I am deeply humbled by this nomination. I recognize the incredible legacy of the Americans who have been Ambassadors to the Court of St. James's – five of whom later became U.S. presidents. So let me close with the words of the first of those appointees, John Adams, who said, "Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives."

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome your questions.